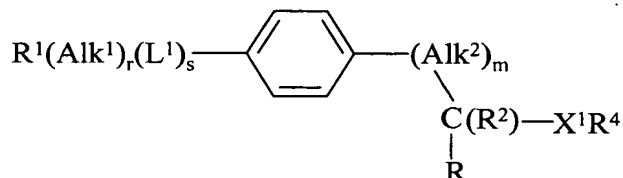


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1a):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid;

R¹ is an optionally substituted pyridyl group;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic chain or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁵)-, -CON(R⁵)-, -OC(O)N(R⁵)-, -CSN(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)CO-, -N(R⁵)C(O)O-, -N(R⁵)CS-, -S(O)N(R⁵)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)S(O)-, -N(R⁵)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁵)CON(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)CSN(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)SON(R⁵)-, and -N(R⁵)SO₂N(R⁵)-;

R⁵ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

L¹ is -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁵)-, -CON(R⁵)-, -OC(O)N(R⁵)-, -CSN(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)CO-, -N(R⁵)C(O)O-, -N(R⁵)CS-, -S(O)N(R⁵)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)S(O)-, -N(R⁵)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁵)CON(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)CSN(R⁵)-, -N(R⁵)SON(R⁵)-, or -N(R⁵)SO₂N(R⁵)-;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X^1 is a group selected from $-N(R^3)CO-$, (where R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); $-N(R^3)SO_2-$, $-N(R^3)C(O)O-$ or $-N(R^3)CON(R^{3a})-$ (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R^4 is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl, C_{7-10} bicycloalkyl, C_{7-10} tricycloalkyl, C_{7-10} bicycloalkenyl, or C_{7-10} tricycloalkenyl group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates ~~and~~ or N-oxides thereof.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s-$ is a $-CH_2O-$ or $-CON(R^5)-$ group where R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group.

6. (original) A compound according to Claim 5 wherein $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s-$ is a $-CONH-$ group.

7. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Alk^2 is $-CH_2-$, m is an integer 1, and R^2 is a hydrogen atom.

5/ 8. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X¹ is a -NHCO-, -NHSO₂-, -
NHC(O)O- or -NHCONH- group.

6/ 9. (original) A compound according to Claim 8 wherein X¹ is a -NHCO- group.

7/ 10. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R⁴ is an optionally substituted
straight or branched C₁₋₆alkyl group or an optionally substituted C₃₋₇cycloalkyl or C₇₋₁₀tricycloalkyl group.

8/ 11. (original) A compound according to Claim 10 wherein R⁴ is an optionally substituted
straight or branched C₁₋₄alkyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or adamantyl group.

9/ 12. (currently amended) A compound which is:

N-Isopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Cyclopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

N-Acetyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates ~~and~~ or N-oxides thereof.

10/ 13. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim
1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

DOCKET NO.: CELL-0072
Application N .: 09/326,020
Office Action Dated: March 12, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)